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Emilio Eduardo MASSERA Padula (Phonetic: maSEHra)

ARGENTINA

Commander in Chief of the Navy; Member, Ruling Junta

Addressed as:
Admiral Massera

Adm. Emilio Massera has been Commander in Chief of the Navy since 1973. As such, he is one of the triumvirate of armed forces commanders who compose the military junta that has governed Argentina since March 1976. As the most senior of the three service chiefs, Massera presides over the junta's meetings, although he is not its President.

The most politically ambitious of the junta's members, Massera has engaged in political maneuverings and support-building efforts--presumably with an eye to seeking the Presidency for himself as a civilian, should elections be called in the next few years. Such moves have generated problems for President Jorge Videla: Massera has aligned himself with the more conservative, hard-line elements within the armed forces who are dissatisfied with Videla's moderate approach to governing.

Massera is friendly toward the United States. He served in this country as an adviser to the Inter-American Defense Board during 1963-64, and he was later a student at the Inter-American Defense College. His latest visit to this country was in February 1975, when he met with the US Chief of Naval Operations and received the Legion of Merit medal.

Massera, 52, is an intelligent, competent and professional officer. He has a strong, forceful personality, an excellent sense of humor, and an easy and articulate conversational manner. He likes to read, and he enjoys yachting, skindiving and horseracing. Massera is married to the former Delia Esther Vieyra and has two sons. He speaks limited French and English.

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